



June 1, 2002

Mr. Chris Horyza, Assistance Representative
Bureau of Land Management
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Dear Chris,

Enclosed is our report of the Community and Natural Resource Issues, the Management Concerns, and the Management and Partnership Opportunities for the planning area, as noted in the list of our task order Phase I deliverables.

Taken as a whole, the planning area may seem to have a lot of issues and concerns. However, when viewed by Community Resource Units (CRU), the number is more manageable and issues are more actionable. Resolution of some issues is simply a matter of providing certain information to the right people. Some issues and concerns are found in only one or a few CRU's. Others are commonly held throughout the planning area. Trash is an example of the latter type.

As was discussed in the Discovery workshop, working with communities to help them resolve their natural resource issues builds trust and momentum to work together on larger and tougher issues, such as land use planning decisions.

We offer a few general observations and recommendations about the report:

We recommend this report be used as a living compilation of Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities organized by CRU. As we move through the planning process, new ones can be added and tracked. The report can help BLM Community Liaisons focus their discussions in the communities. The report can help BLM decide which issues are the most important ones to help communities resolve.

Some partnership actions are already underway to resolve issues and concerns. Support those, help them succeed, and then build on those successes. Examples are: 1) fire safety coordination and community awareness in Mayer, Cordes Lakes, and Black

Canyon City, 2) trail location and designation efforts in Black Canyon City, 3) R&PP lease application in Black Canyon City.

Pick "the low-hanging fruit". These are the opportunities to help resolve an issue that doesn't take a lot of BLM time or resources, but have a significant benefit to the community. Two examples are: determining jurisdiction and maintenance responsibilities for Constellation Road near Wickenburg, and working with Yavapai County Trails Council to designate the Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trail extension.

Some issues are highly actionable because there is widespread community support to do something now. Developing a citizen-based stewardship arrangement for Hassayampa Box Canyon in the Wickenburg CRU seems to be one such opportunity. Successful resolution builds trust and cooperation quickly, and the momentum can carry right into other elements of the planning process.

Trash or illegal dumping is the most widespread issue across the planning area. The problem is everywhere and is getting worse as population increases. Trash cleanup costs agencies money and siphons away citizen energy from more productive collaboration. There is broad support to do something about it, but no one knows exactly what to do. We believe the issue is resolvable when approached on a regional scale driven by citizen action. BLM can facilitate resolution by working with citizen networks and local formal organizations.

A comment about the Community Resource Units (CRU) - we will continue to fine-tune the boundaries of these units and perhaps even combine or adjust some of them as we complete the community assessment in the coming months. For now, the CRU's identified in the enclosed report are definitive enough to enable BLM to staff the culture and work with communities.

We look forward to reviewing this document with your planning team and representatives of Jones and Stokes, the plan/EIS contractor. In the meantime, if there are any questions regarding the information in this report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Dave Schultz
JKA Project Leader

Enclosure

Post Office Box 3165, Aspen, Colorado 81612 Phone: (970) 927-4424
Post Office Box 3493, Ashland, Oregon 97520 Phone: (541) 488-6978
970 N. Kalaheo Blvd., Kailua, Hawaii 96734 Phone: (808) 263-2422
1702 Doe Run Road, Sequim, WA 98382 Phone: (360) 683-1427

Fax: (970) 927-4443 kentj@csn.net
Fax: (541) 552-9683 kevpreis@jeffnet.org
Fax: (808) 263-1242 bruceisd@igc.org
Fax: (360) 683-9431 dmerritt@olympus.net

Creating Productive Harmony between Human and Natural Environments

Bradshaw Foothills, Agua Fria National Monument, and Harquahala Mountains Planning Effort

Issues, Management Concerns, and Management and Partnership Opportunities by Community Resource Units (CRU)

Wickenburg CRU

Community Issues

Selection of the Hwy 93 Bypass location has polarized citizens of Wickenburg over the past year or so. The controversy has eased in Wickenburg in recent months (or shifted somewhat to Morristown). The Hwy 93 issue will again be discussed in coming years as the CanaMex route through the area is selected.

A number of citizens are unhappy about The Nature Conservancy's establishment of the Hassayampa River Preserve. They complain about loss of access to the river for activities they previously enjoyed - fishing, ATV travel, and camping.

Several citizens and a local church representative expressed concern over increasingly insufficient low cost housing in Wickenburg. Lower income workers and citizens are looking westward toward Aguila and northward toward Congress for affordable housing.

Natural Resource Issues

Some citizens expressed their belief that the BLM planning and EIS process is difficult to understand and to engage and they want to understand it better.

Constellation Road is often in bad shape. Some residents want improvement and consistent maintenance of this road. Those expressing the need were unaware of who owns the road or is responsible for maintenance.

Many citizens regularly use the Hassayampa River Box Canyon and want to be able to protect the unique resources in the Canyon, yet permit reasonable access and use by hikers, picnickers, road use, trail use. Currently, trashing and environmental damage occurs regularly.

Trash is an ongoing problem, especially in more heavily used areas, such as Box Canyon, Blue Tanks, and the Constellation Road. Citizen groups regularly have clean-up days to remove trash. In recent years it has been harder to get people and groups out to clean it

up.

Abandoned mines in the general Wickenburg area pose a potential threat of water pollution and citizen safety.

Trails

Trails are an important aspect of Wickenburg western history and heritage. Some citizens feel a strong need to locate and designate trails for motorized and non-motorized uses. Some trail access has already been lost to private development. A few citizens are reluctant to designate and map trail locations for fear of government intrusion or attracting too many users.

“If we tell people where the trails are or produce maps, we will be overrun.”
[local trails user]

ATV and motorcycle use is increasing in the Wickenburg area as population of users increase north and west of Phoenix. Increased use brings more conflict with other users as well as more renegade users who cause proportionately more resource damage.

Land Tenure and Open Space

Many people expressed confusion about land ownership. At times they don't know when they are on state lands or BLM lands. In everyday conversations, it was obvious that people were not clear in distinguishing the two, whether the location of trails, of public lands close to town and so on.

There is a buried head in the sand mentality about State Trust lands, a sense that it will always be there.

Vulture Peak is important to Wickenburg as a vista and from an historic perspective. Many citizens want to make sure it is protected from intrusive development, or development which would degrade visual quality.

Several citizens advocated retaining BLM lands to the south and west of Wickenburg as a buffer against urban encroachment from metro Phoenix

Several citizens at a Wickenburg meeting urged BLM to get the Arizona State Land Department involved in the BLM planning process - their experience is that State Lands avoids involvement in planning and is not responsive to citizens.

Open range grazing

Vulture Mine Road needs to be fenced off because of cattle. It is paved and is becoming a commuting road with fast traffic. [rancher]

Management Concerns

Recreational prospectors, or prospecting clubs, have group and family outings to work their claims. Numbers of people who show up are sometimes much greater than planned. Sometimes, the need for camping and parking space causes conflicts with other groups using that particular area.[BLM]

"State Trust lands in the Wickenburg area will be liquidated some day; there needs to be a buffer between Phoenix and Wickenburg" [Wickenburg City Council member]

There are numerous abandoned mines in nearby hills pose a safety hazard because of unmarked open shafts, as well as possible water quality problems. BLM has insufficient staff to inventory and safeguard dangerous sites. (BLM water specialist)

Management and Partnership Opportunities

This planning effort presents a good opportunity to address several important issues related to land jurisdiction and land tenure. The opportunity is to engage key citizens and groups, the State Land Department, and local government and discuss land tenure options for BLM lands. Specifically,

The Yavapai County General Plan revision and the Wickenburg General Plan are both well underway. This is an excellent time to align community vision and planning elements for overall consistency between plans.

While Vulture Mine is private land, the larger portion of Vulture Peak is largely on BLM land. The viewshed and historical perspective the community values can be addressed in the planning process as lands to be retained, or preserved using other options such as R&PP lease

Identifying BLM lands which could serve as a buffer between Phoenix urban development and Wickenburg and designating in the plan.

Jurisdiction and responsibility for improvement and maintenance for Constellation Road can be determined. BLM can facilitate process for getting and keeping the road in shape.

Work with recreation users to determine appropriate community-based strategies for trail designation, use, and maintenance. Is designation appropriate? Can designation be associated with "adopt-a-trail" by clubs and groups, both local and non-local?

There is strong citizen identification with and a caretaking ethic for the Hassayampa Box Canyon. This support can easily evolve into a full stewardship effort for the Canyon. Work with local user groups and local government to develop a management framework for Box Canyon and follow through with appropriate designations or agreements.

Yarnell CRU

Community issues

There is a strong community desire for no growth in Yarnell, although some elements of Yarnell want growth and jobs. Peeples Valley is generally pro-growth.

Natural Resource Issues

Several individuals in the Kirkland, Skull Valley, Wilhoit area are advocates of private property rights and are somewhat suspicious of government planning efforts.

A citizens group in Yarnell has fought off a gold mining proposal in recent years. They are concerned that another proposal could resurface when gold prices are higher.

There is some trash dumping associated with OHV and hunting activities.

Management Concerns

Yarnell Chamber of Commerce representatives are concerned about stimulating economic development in Yarnell. They need trails and possibly land for summer camping and outdoor experiences.

The Prescott National Forest is concerned about wild land-urban interface issues in communities near National Forest lands, especially related to fire safety. Prescott National Forest is developing a new fire management plan to address this concern.

Numerous abandoned mines in nearby hills pose a safety hazard because of unmarked open shafts, as well as possible water quality problems. BLM has insufficient staff to inventory and safeguard dangerous sites. (BLM water specialist)

Management and Partnership Opportunities

Key citizens and groups in the Yarnell CRU know they have important interests to protect. There is an opportunity to demonstrate how their interests can be considered through a citizen-driven planning process.

One proposal the Yarnell Chamber has for economic development is getting BLM cooperation to develop a trail system, including Antelope Peak on BLM land. They are also interested in knowing more about R&PP leases for public facilities.

There is an opportunity to employ youth from a local non-profit organization to locate, inventory, and sign abandoned mines.

Tonopah Valley CRU

Community issues

In Tonopah Valley, residents have an ongoing concern about efforts to locate more power plants and transmission lines and large prisons, especially private prisons. They have fought off several attempts in recent years by developers to locate prisons there. Several large power generation plants are planned for construction near the Palo Verde facility. Communities must react to periodic fast growth with accompanying demand for infrastructure and schools.

Natural Resource Issues

As Buckeye develops, commuting time to Tonopah, with cheaper land and more open space, is less than an hour. Trash dumping is becoming a larger issue as more people settle in the area and as metro Phoenix spreads westward.

Some ATV and other off-road users drive all over the area without regard to existing routes, land ownership, or environmental impact. Use is increasing as Phoenix and Buckeye grow westward.

The citizens understand that private and State Trust lands will eventually be developed and they want to identify and establish parks and other open space needed in the future.

Management concerns

Tonopah Valley Community Council and Tonopah Valley Association want to be actively involved in RMP planning process, especially for designation of motorized routes and land tenure decisions. These two organizations have offered the use of their regular meetings and newsletters to communicate planning information to Tonopah Valley and Harquahela Valley citizens and to help facilitate the citizen involvement process.

Tonopah Valley Community Council and Tonopah Valley Association have ongoing concerns about locations of power generating plants and associated transmission lines.

Management and Partnership Opportunities

The BLM planning effort presents an opportunity to work with Tonopah Valley citizens to identify and designate BLM lands for future open space and parks using Conservation Agreements, R&PP leases or other means. Citizen based planning could also identify needs of Maricopa County and energy companies for transportation and utility corridors well in advance of their actual needs.

Tonopah Valley citizens want to help identify and designate travel routes in the CRU as a means of controlling cross-country travel and protecting the desert environment and private lands.

Castle Hot Springs CRU

Community Issues

Remote locations cause long response time for Yavapai County emergency services - fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services.

Traveling rough roads providing access to homes and ranches on a daily basis takes a heavy toll on residents' vehicles, but improving the roads would bring more residents to the area. The current roads are a temporary barrier to more development.

“I spend three hours every day on these roads, but it’s worth it to live up here”
(Pleasant View Estates resident)

Ranching

Some ranchers finding it more difficult to preserve ranching as a viable business and lifestyle. Prospects of leaving a viable ranching operation to kids are quickly diminishing.

Ranchers believe the recreating public does not appreciate the role or value of ranching in land stewardship, preserving open space, or as a cultural/historical presence.

Natural Resource Issues

As Phoenix metro area grows, there are more ATV and off-road users traveling throughout area, resulting in more trash dumping, cutting ranch fences, speeding on narrow county roads, and shooting around ranch buildings and windmills.

Some long time residents of Castle Hot Springs who once opposed Wilderness designations are now seeing such designations as a way of preserving the landscape, open space, and the western lifestyle.

Management Concerns

Trash dumping continues to occur on many public and private lands. Periodic cleanup days co-sponsored by State Lands, BLM, and OHV groups provide only temporary relief and cost the BLM several thousand dollars annually just for dumpster rentals.

Formal OHV groups who regularly use the area are very concerned that urban development will push OHV users out of the area, a continuing pattern for them.

New subdivision with a golf course (Quintero) is being built on old mining claim surrounded by BLM land and in wild burro habitat. Burros, cattle, javelina, and other critters will be attracted to grass and will be seen as a nuisance to residents. There is a concern that BLM will be expected to mitigate the burro conflict. The concerns may also involve the Arizona Fish and Game as well.

Continuing urban expansion means more intense demand for construction and landscaping materials - decorative gravel, boulders, construction aggregate. Much of the demand will be focused on BLM lands in the southern Bradshaws.

Forest Service (Prescott National Forest) is concerned that more users in the southern Bradshaws will mean higher incidence of human-caused fires on public lands.

Travel routes and OHV use

BLM is concerned about accomplishing the large task of designating use of motorized routes in the planning process.

The State Land Department is concerned that people recreate on State Trust lands without having permits and that there is widespread citizen misunderstanding about where State Trust lands are located and how they are managed.

Ranching and recreation

There is an opportunity here to educate the recreating public about ranch living, integrating ranching and recreational activities in ways that support both, economically and socially. A starting place might be putting local ranchers in touch with Rural Conservation & Development specialists and the Wickenburg Western Heritage Museum.

Arizona Game and Fish has a state wide program (Sportsman/Landowner Respect Program) to encourage user organizations to adopt ranches in order to preserve access on and across private land for hunting and other uses - this program seems to have application in the Castle Hot Springs area. The BLM could become a partner in the program as well.

Mining and prospecting

Numerous abandoned mines in southern Bradshaws pose safety hazard because of unmarked open shafts and water quality problems. BLM has insufficient staff to inventory and safeguard dangerous sites. (BLM water specialist)

Recreational prospecting by individuals and organized groups sometimes cause resource impacts such as camping and ground disturbance.

Management and Partnership Opportunities

Formal OHV organizations have indicated a strong desire to work with BLM and other landowners and users to inventory routes, collaborate in decisionmaking, maintain routes, and monitor use on routes. They and other users want their interests represented in the process. This is a good opportunity to have the groups help develop a citizen based process to make the route decisions early in the planning process.

The Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA) has volunteered to work on BLM projects near Association claims. One such project could be identifying and inventorying abandoned mines and accomplishing some basic safeguarding at mines. This would not only get needed work done, but also build cooperation and trust between BLM and prospecting clubs.

“Just bring us a list of projects you want done.” [GPAA local president]

Ranching and recreation

There is an opportunity here to educate the recreating public about ranch living, integrating ranching and recreational activities in ways that support both, economically and socially. A starting place might be putting local ranchers in touch with Rural Conservation & Development specialists and the Wickenburg Western Heritage Museum.

Arizona Game and Fish has a state wide program (Sportsman/Landowner Respect Program) to encourage user organizations to adopt ranches in order to preserve access on and across private land for hunting and other uses - this program seems to have application in the Castle Hot Springs area. The BLM could become a partner in the program as well.

North Phoenix/Peoria CRU

Community Issues

Urban Sprawl and Annexation

The owner of an off-road race track on leased State Trust land northwest of Phoenix knows some day he will need to close or move his business because of residential development.

The owner of an RV park annexed by Peoria found out the business was in Peoria three years later when he was hit with a bill for back taxes and an order to comply with city ordinances.

"Growth is so fast, the city can't even keep up with it themselves." [RV park owner]

Natural Resource Issues

OHV and Recreation Activities

The trend around Phoenix is that OHV users get pushed out farther and farther as urban development overtakes areas used for OHV use. OHV users we talked to on site expect to continue getting displaced.

Many people using desert in southern Bradshaws are unclear whether they are on State Trust lands, BLM lands, Forest Service lands, or private lands. They are also unclear about regulations for using different lands. This includes not knowing that a permit is needed to be on State Trust lands.

"The problem is that State lands have different regs than federal lands do and out in the desert it's difficult to know whose land you're on". [motorcycle racetrack operator near Hwy 74]

Fast growth in the Phoenix metropolitan area and the jobs created attracts people from all over the country, many of whom have little understanding or appreciation of desert ecosystems, land ownership patterns, and public land policies. Many people we talked to either expressed confusion about these topics or expressed the need for better education by the public land agencies.

"What public lands? You mean the desert? The desert is the desert; there is nothing out there." [young hotel worker in northern Phoenix]

Target Shooting

Caswell shooting range manager (Tempe) is unhappy about shooters who shoot unsafely on public lands, damage property, and leave trash at shooting sites. He thinks it gives shooting and shooters a bad name with the general public, eventually will result in public lands being off-limits to shooting other than hunting.

"We're in real danger of losing our rights to use open areas for shooting - look at what happened on the Tonto Forest." [shooting range manager]

Management Concerns

As urban population expands there is continuing need for gravel and aggregate pits, communication sites and corridors for transportation routes, electric transmission lines, and natural gas lines feeding power generation plants west of Phoenix. Many of these facilities cross BLM lands, impacting resources and requiring extensive analyses. We need the cities and Maricopa County involved with planning out their saleable mineral needs so the BLM can be more proactive. [BLM realty staff]

As urban development moves into previously undeveloped areas, target shooting in those

areas pose a danger to residents and users of public lands. [BLM manager]

OHV use in the southern Bradshaws is growing and resulting in heavier impacts to the land and resources. Impacts include soil erosion on hillsides and in washes, wildlife disturbance, and vegetation is damaged. [BLM biologist]

The Arizona State Lands department is concerned that people use State Trust lands without permits, leases, or licenses, and often without knowing where they are or what the regulations are.

Maricopa County is concerned about having adequate transportation corridors in place for future needs.

Maricopa County is concerned about its ability to maintain 10 - 15 % of land set aside for open space in future growth areas. It is looking at BLM and State Trust lands as sources of future open space.

Staffing and volunteerism

Staffing for law enforcement, environmental education, and field specialists is inadequate to keep up with growing pressure on BLM lands. Many specialists feel overwhelmed by workload and feel like they are always in a reactive mode. [BLM biologist]

The BLM Phoenix Field Office managers have numerous offers from numerous groups and individuals to volunteer in a wide variety of capacities. Some volunteers Managers would like to take advantage of additional volunteer opportunities, but believe they don't have time or staffing to effectively manage volunteer programs. Volunteerism and staffing

Management and Partnership Opportunities

Caswell commercial shooting range (Tempe) has offered to work with other shooting ranges, with public land agencies, sporting goods stores, and shooting organizations such as NRA and Friends of NRA to promote shooting and conservation safety and ethics on public lands. Ideas include sponsoring ads in NRA/sporting publications, sponsoring public service announcements (psa's), posting flyers in stores and ranges, publicizing ethics in shooting safety courses, publicizing phone numbers of law enforcement to report unsafe shooting and illegal trash dumping on public lands.

The local chapters of two national gold prospecting associations have offered to do volunteer projects on BLM lands. This could be matched with the need to locate and inventory abandoned mines in the Wickenburg and Castle Hot Springs CRU's.

Buckeye CRU

Community Issues

There is citizen support to preserving the old town flavor of the old Buckeye.

Some second- and third-generation farming families are looking to sell their land. The children do not want to farm. So the lands will likely be sold for development.

"The farmers are becoming realtors around here" [local realtor]

Buckeye city limits stretch nearly to Highway 74. Growth seems to be a foregone conclusion, although not everybody is in favor of it. Several citizens expressed the need to keep working with developers so that open space, affordable housing, and community amenities are included.

Natural Resource issues

Ranchers are experiencing more damage from ATV users running through private lands and public lands.

"They're destroying public lands." [rancher in Rainbow Valley]

Monuments

Several citizens showed a lack of understanding of the regulations for using BLM National Monument lands. A few expressed their belief that the Monuments were closed to vehicular travel.

Open space and natural corridors

There is interest in Buckeye community to understand how R&PP leases work. Several citizens are interested in options available for using public lands for open space and community public purposes. They believe all State Trust lands will be fully developed.

Citizens in Buckeye and the White Tanks area are recognizing some of the benefits of leaving open space areas and natural corridors linking open spaces. The corridors would include room for plant and animal habitat and for citizen trails.

Some White Tanks area residents want to enlarge White Tanks park. They also advocate limiting development to slopes of 15% or less.

Illegal dumping

Trash and illegal dumping is an ever increasing issue on public and private lands. As the Phoenix area grows, the problem grows with it.

OHV use

OHV use occurs on desert land in general, with little apparent distinction between jurisdictions.

Management Concerns

The State Land Department is concerned that people recreate on State Trust lands without having permits and that there is widespread citizen misunderstanding about where State Trust lands are located and how they are managed.

The park ranger at White Tanks expressed concern over the heavily increasing visitor use and inadequate staffing by Maricopa County. Some of the increasing impacts are trash dumping, graffiti, and rowdy behavior. A recent fee increase hasn't apparently lessened the public use.

Maricopa County and City of Buckeye are concerned about having adequate transportation corridors identified for future needs.

Maricopa County is concerned about its ability to maintain 10 - 15 % of land set aside for open space in future growth areas. It is looking at BLM and State Trust lands as sources of future open space.

Management and Partnership Opportunities

Multi-jurisdictional planning

Buckeye seems to be in an early stage of growth and at an appropriate time to define specific needs for future open spaces and corridors. The BLM planning process involving the City of Buckeye, Maricopa County, Native American Tribes, Arizona Game and Fish, and the State Land Department, through a citizen-driven process, could explore ways to meet the collective goals of citizens and agencies.

The planning process is an excellent vehicle for citizens to learn current regulations and future management options for various land categories, including State Trust lands, BLM Monument lands, and other BLM lands.

An R&PP lease application is apparently underway for a Motocross park. There is some interest in exploring other potential applications as well, such as a senior citizen center or parks.

New River/Cave Creek/Carefree CRU

Community Issues

New River has tried to incorporate in past; the issue comes up every few years. This issue seems to center around a desire to have more local control of growth, planning, and zoning, versus the additional requirements and costs of incorporation.

Natural Resource Issues

Many residential areas in New River consist of 1-2 acre tracts - as more people move “into the country” they buy an ATV and take off across countryside without regard to ownership or regulations or environmental concerns - a growing problem (newspaper publisher)

New River is in process of expanding or adding to a BLM R&PP lease for the Kiwanis Park and Senior Center on north edge of village.

Trash is left by users of desert lands (public and private) and by travelers from I-17. Community groups and local ranchers regularly clean up trash left by others.

Management Concerns

Cave Creek residents and Tonto National Forest are concerned about shooting on Forest land adjacent to Cave Creek and Carefree. The Tonto National Forest has instituted closure on shooting for 80,000 acres on Forest land.

Cave Creek and New River and Carefree experiencing rapid growth resulting in heavy impacts on National Forest resources adjacent to those communities and increased user conflicts. (Tonto NF planner)

User groups have complained about confusing regulations on Forest lands and are pressuring National Forests to develop consistent off-road policies for all Forests.

Arizona Game and Fish Department is concerned about losing access by hunters to use of private lands for hunting and losing access across private lands to public lands. They have a program to have OHV and hunting groups to work cooperatively with ranchers and landowners.

Management and Partnership Opportunities

A goal expressed by several citizens in the New River community is to someday have a place dedicated for families to safely enjoy off-road and ATV activities. Currently, many

ATV enthusiasts use private and State Trust lands, often without permission.

Idea discussed by a local rancher and an off-road club is to develop a creed/ethics card for off-roading, emphasizing safety, environmental respect, respect for private property rights, respect for other users, etc. Off-road groups and public land agencies could co-sponsor such an approach.

Arizona Game and Fish has a program (Sportsman/Landowner Respect Program) to encourage user organizations to adopt ranches in order to preserve access on and across private land for hunting and other uses - one example is on East Table Mesa Road. This program could be expanded.

Black Canyon City CRU

Community Issues

Many citizens believe they get inadequate share of Yavapai County services, such as law enforcement, road maintenance, parks, medical emergency services.

Some citizens believe Black Canyon City needs to incorporate in order to avoid being annexed by Peoria or Phoenix. This issue has come up every few years as a topic of community debate but not enough support has yet existed to move it forward.

Some citizens expressed the need for more activities for young people, in addition to the BMX track. A related opinion expressed by Canon School administrators is that, in general, it is difficult to get local parents involved with their children's education or other activities.

Natural Resource Issues

Access

Many citizens want access preserved to public lands and the activities they currently enjoy, such as horseback riding, hiking, off-road riding, ATV riding, recreational prospecting, rock-hounding, shooting, hunting. Citizens in Black Canyon City have expressed concern about losing access to public lands.

"Just leave things the way they are". [longtime local resident]

Local members of OHV groups believe they are continually forced out of areas they use because of encroaching urban development. They would like to be involved in a planning process that result in retaining access to roads and trails in the future.

Several citizens expressed frustration in not having easy access to maps of public lands in the area.

Some citizens don't agree with the way State Trust lands are managed. For example, they resent needing to have permits to enter State Trust Lands.

Illegal Dumping

Many citizens are frustrated about illegal dumping of trash on public and private lands, especially items which are expensive to take to the transfer station, such as appliances, furniture, automobiles, and tires.

Some citizens have expressed concern with target shooting in areas where residences and other public land users are present.

Management Concerns

The BLM and the Forest Service are concerned about fire danger in and around communities adjacent to public lands.

The Black Canyon City Fire Department is concerned about fire safety of local residents, especially during this drought season.

People use State Trust lands without permits, leases, or licenses, and often without knowing. There is a lack of citizen understanding of regulations for use of and locations of State Trust lands. [State Lands department OHV specialist]

Management and Partnership Opportunities

Illegal Dumping

There is a lot of energy in the community to work toward resolution of this issue. Local individuals, OHV clubs, a gold prospector association, local media, local businesses, and federal, state, and local government agencies all express a need to address the problem.

Fire Safety

The BLM and the Black Canyon City Fire Department have recently begun discussing ways to demonstrate community and residential fire safety practices to local citizens. This is an immediate and relatively easy to build social capital (trust and cooperation) within the community and with the BLM.

Access

Representatives of OHV groups have offered to help BLM inventory routes, monitor environmental conditions on roads, perform maintenance, and collaborate with other route users to develop integrated management strategies and decisions.

The Black Canyon City Riders are working with the BLM to locate and designate several sections of trails in order to enhance riding and hiking opportunities around the

community and to tie in with the Black Canyon Trail system. They are willing to help maintain and monitor the trails as well.

Land Tenure

Several opportunities for partnering between BLM and citizen groups to acquire BLM lands for community uses. The High Desert Helpers are in the process of acquiring the use of BLM land for expansion of High Desert Park. Some citizens are interested in BLM lands on west side of Agua Fria as a community greenbelt. The Helpers are getting help from a BLM specialist in the application processes and this need to continue on a deliberate basis (staffing the culture).

The Black Canyon City Community Association is interested in longer term acquisition of BLM lands or leases in order to provide private land for future community expansion as well as for public uses such as schools, fire stations, and community centers. The Association is exploring ways to identify their long term needs and to express that in the BLM planning process.

Many Citizens of Black Canyon City want to have BLM retain much of the lands in the Black Canyon area in public ownership which provide a buffer against urban development, and for their value as view sheds, vistas and open space. The opportunity is to help the community understand the planning options available and the appropriate ways to provide the BLM guidance for land tenure decisions in the plan.

Agua Fria National Monument

Although not likely as a “gateway” village to the Agua Fria National Monument, several citizens and the Chamber of Commerce have expressed interests in participating in economic aspects of managing the Monument, such as tourism information, guided tours, maps, and special events.

Canyon Creek Ranch, a local outfitter, has offered to perform trail maintenance and monitor resource condition in conjunction with permitted use on the Monument.

The local rock hounding club, the Braggin' Rock Club, is interested in volunteering to help the BLM gather information on the Monument and to help monitor sites.

Mayer - Cordes CRU

Community Issues

The community would like to have an alternate route south through Black Canyon corridor paralleling I-17 for emergencies when I-17 is blocked by accident, or in case of emergency.

In Spring Valley, the residents are negotiating the appropriate Covenants, Codes and

Restrictions (CC&R's) and coordinating volunteers to complete construction of some features in their community park.

Cordes Lakes Homeowners Association needs more facilities for young people and is currently trying to acquire land and facilities for Boys and Girls Clubs.

Big Bug Economic Alliance has expressed need for Regional transportation for senior citizens who don't drive well any more to travel from small communities to Prescott and to Phoenix for medical and other needs.

Retaining rural character and open space is an important value and an emerging citizen issue as well, with the area growing in population.

Natural Resource Issues

Access

Cordes Lakes wants the primitive road heading south and east of town improved for an alternate escape route in case of fire or other emergency at Cordes Junction.

There is confusion among some residents about boundaries of State Trust lands, private lands, and BLM lands locally and the differences in policies for public use of those lands.

Big Bug Economic Alliance is needing to update the community land use plan for the area and wants to include the BLM in the process.

Yavapai County Trails Council wants to locate and designate Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trail extension from Highway 69 north to the Prescott National Forest Boundary.

Several Spring Valley and Mayer residents expressed concern over damage to cultural resource sites on BLM land north of Mayer - several citizens want sites protected better.

There is widespread concern and significant opposition expressed about the proposed BLM/Aranda land exchange. Main objections seem to center on water supply issues, loss of open space, damage to cultural resources, and uncertainty about possible development on selected lands.

Trash and illegal dumping continues to be a problem on public lands (State Trust, BLM and USFS) and private lands, especially dumping of tires and appliances.

Water

Many residents are concerned about having enough water for current and future homes and businesses

Management Concerns

Prescott National Forest is concerned that if proposed BLM/Aranda land exchange is consummated, there would be more residential development next to Forest lands, bringing more impacts to natural resources, such as illegal dumping, ATV use, target shooting and more human-caused fires.

The State Land Department and BLM are concerned about illegal dumping on public lands in the area.

Yavapai County is concerned about providing some services to fast growing rural areas, such as public safety, roads, parks, and regulatory review.

BLM specialist working on large backlog to inventory water rights and water sources on Agua Fria National Monument. Water rights on Monument is necessary to ensure water for future management of resources there - rights needed to be registered with State because land was acquired from State Trust.

The State Land Department is concerned that people recreate on State Trust lands without having permits and that there is widespread citizen misunderstanding about where State Trust lands are located and how they are managed.

The community of Cordes Junction is concerned that the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) reconstruction of junction of Highway 69 and I-17 serves the community's needs.

Fire safety

The BLM and the Forest Service are concerned about fire danger in and around communities adjacent to public lands. Prescott National Forest is concerned about wild land-urban interface issues around Prescott and other nearby communities, especially related to fire safety. Prescott National Forest is developing a new fire management plan to address this concern.

Management and Partnership Opportunities

Citizen Harold Martin and Big Bug Economic Alliance has offered to help coordinate the community planning effort for BLM for lands from Dewey-Humboldt to Black Canyon City and the communities in between, using community-based process similar to the one used in 1996.

BLM is currently working with the Yavapai County Trails Council to locate, designate and protect an extension of the Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trail. The work so far has built a great deal of trust between the Council and BLM. Follow through on the project will be a huge win-win for both parties and the hiking/equestrian public.

Agua Fria National Monument

Harold Martin has offered to coordinate the development of a visitor information center at Cordes Junction serving Cordes Lakes communities, Agua Fria National Monument, other BLM lands, Prescott and Tonto National Forest attractions, State Trust lands, and surrounding communities. Mr. Martin also offered to help organize community efforts to help plan, monitor conditions and use, and patrol roads on the Monument.

Fire Safety

The BLM and the local officials in Mayer have recently begun discussing ways to demonstrate community and residential fire safety practices to local citizens. This is an immediate and relatively easy way to build social capital (trust and cooperation) within the community and with the BLM.

Dewey Humboldt CRU

Community issues

Community Planning and zoning for the Yavapai County General Plan revision is well underway. Implementation of current zoning is an ongoing issue in Dewey-Humboldt as some residents feel that exceptions to the zoning plan are made too easily in order to accommodate every proposal and for short term benefits at the expense of longer term community interests.

Retaining rural character and open space is an important goal of community planning and is included in the Yavapai County General Plan revision; several citizens expressed concern that as communities continue to grow, rural character is being lost.

As the rural communities grow and struggle with local control of growth, several members of Dewey-Humboldt Community Organization recommend they consider incorporation.

Dewey Humboldt is trying to find land to develop little League baseball fields for their youngsters.

Natural resource issues

Some citizens want to retain BLM lands for future open space and recreational opportunities.

Trash and illegal dumping continues to be an issue for public lands and private lands.

The proposed BLM/Aranda land exchange is resulting in widespread community interest and reactions. Many citizens express opposition to the proposed trade, citing concerns about insufficient water supply, loss of open space,

Some citizens and groups (including the Yavapai County Trails Council) want to designate some non-motorized trails for horse and hiking only. One such trail is the Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trail.

Access

Some citizens want to be able to easily obtain land ownership maps and other information on regulations for use of State Trust Lands, BLM lands, National Forest lands, and BLM Monument lands.

Some residents in Dewey-Humboldt community are worried about losing access to BLM lands on a road passing through private land which is being closed by land developer.

Water

Water for current and future homes and businesses is a widely held existing issue throughout the rural area from Prescott Valley to Mayer and Cordes Lakes. The issue is rapidly growing in intensity as new proposals for residential development and BLM land exchange are revealed.

Management concerns

Prescott National Forest is concerned about wild land-urban interface issues around Prescott and other nearby communities, especially related to fire safety. Prescott National Forest is developing a new fire management plan to address this concern.

The National Forests of Arizona are developing a set of policies to manage OHV use more consistently on National Forest lands. The Prescott National Forest is chairing the effort in Arizona.

The State Land Department is concerned that people recreate on State Trust lands without having permits and that there is widespread citizen misunderstanding about where State Trust lands are located and how they are managed.

Yavapai County is concerned about planning and securing enough transportation corridors between Cordes and Prescott to meet future needs of rapidly growing population.

Yavapai County is concerned with retaining quality of life aspects of the area and also accommodating rapid residential and commercial growth.

Management and Partnership Opportunities

Citizen Harold Martin and Big Bug Economic Alliance has offered to help coordinate a citizen based planning effort for BLM lands from Dewey-Humboldt to Black Canyon City and the communities in between, using community-based process similar to the one

used in 1996.

Fire Safety

There is an opportunity for the BLM and local officials in Cordes Lakes to demonstrate community and residential fire safety practices to local citizens. This is an immediate and relatively easy way to build social capital (trust and cooperation) within the community and with the BLM.